

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban  
District Council of Ulverston.*

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## **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.**

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ULVERSTON,

FEBRUARY, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my duty, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, to present a report of the health and sanitary condition of the district at the end of each year, which deals with the action taken to remedy any sanitary defects which might injuriously affect the health of the people, and also with the statistics of births and deaths.

**Inspection of the District.**—I have no doubt but that your district is subject to regular inspection. Not only is inspection undertaken systematically, but special inspections are always made on the outbreak of any of the infectious diseases.

### **Sanitary Condition and Progress—Water Supply**

There has been no complaint, during the year, as to the quality or quantity of the water supplied to your district. In the majority of houses the supply is from the mains, in only about eleven cases are pumps in use, and the supply from these is quite constant, and the quality, as proved by analysis, is beyond suspicion ; so that, although such a method of supply is scarcely in keeping with modern requirements, the law will not admit of any action being taken for the provision of one more up-to-date.

**Sewerage and Drainage.**—The sewers have been working fairly satisfactorily, but the lower end of Chapel Street, which has been mentioned in previous Annual Reports, is still liable to flooding in times of exceptional rainfall.

**Common Yards.**—In my report for the year 1905, I made special mention of the yards in the town which are common to several dwellings, usually called “Common Yards.” The condition of these was generally unsatisfactory, and I suggested that the Council should call upon the owners of the abutting property to place the yards in more satisfactory condition, and when this was done, that the Council should exercise the power which they had of cleansing the yards and apportioning the charge upon the respective owners. So far only two of the “Common Yards,” namely: Eccles’ Yard and Sharp’s Yard, have been placed in anything approaching satisfactory condition, and I trust the Council will see that those remaining are dealt with in a similar manner.

**Slaughter-houses.**—The Slaughter-houses in the district are regularly inspected, and are kept in fairly good order.

**Meat Inspection.**—No systematic inspection of the meat prepared for human food is carried out, nor can I see how it would be possible to carry out any such inspection with the present staff, and work could not be found which would occupy the time of a special Inspector.

**Notification of Births Act.**—This Act has not been adopted in your district, and I cannot conceive that any useful object would be served by its adoption.

**Factory and Workshop's Act.**—The Factories and Workshops are regularly inspected.

**Excrement and Refuse Disposal.**—The greater part of the dry refuse has been deposited upon the field at Tarn Close, the Low Mill Tip having been little used. It will be necessary for the Council to be on the look out for some new depôt, as the one at Low Mill will shortly be filled up. I notice that rag gatherers are again frequenting the sewerage tanks, and, as I have mentioned previously, this practice of taking rags which may have come from infected houses, and storing them in the vicinity of dwellings, is one that should be discouraged, indeed, I would go further and say that strong measures should be taken to prevent the continuance of the practice.

# Summary of Work, as furnished by the Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

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Notices issued for Sanitary Amendments	...	...	37
Number of Premises affected	...	...	54
Letters written respecting Sanitary Works	...	...	19
Privies converted into W.C's	...	...	7
Defective Privies and Ashpits	...	...	19
Water Closets cleansed	...	...	11
Defective Water Closets	...	...	11
„ Slopstone Pipes	...	...	9
Houses disinfected	...	...	3
Defective Drains	...	...	33
Drains tested	...	...	13
„ found defective	...	...	11
Ashpits emptied	...	...	988
Loads of Ashes removed	...	...	1111
Privies emptied	...	...	573
Loads of Excreta removed	...	...	793
Excreta Pails removed	...	...	61
Number of Bins emptied	...	...	39,104
„ „ Slaughter-houses	...	...	8
„ „ Inspections	...	...	283
„ „ Workshops	...	...	65
„ „ Inspections	...	...	115
„ „ Lodging Houses	...	...	3
„ „ Inspections	...	...	42
„ „ Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	739
„ „ Inspections of New Buildings	...	...	159

HENRY WHITLOW, *Inspector.*

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—enumerated (1901)	10,060
„ estimated (1909)	10,060

I do not think that any variation in the population which may have taken place since the census return was made in 1901 will have been sufficient to affect the statistical calculations which will be found on the following pages.

**Births.**—I find that 239 births have been registered during the year, which gives a birth-rate of 23·7 per 1000. In the year 1908, 219 births were registered, the birth-rate being 21·7 per 1000. In my Annual Report for 1908 I spoke of the increase in the number of births, and this year I am glad to say that it is still more marked.

	1909	1908
In the first quarter of the year there were	49	55
„ second „ „	59	56
„ third „ „	63	60
„ fourth „ „	68	48
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Totals	239	219
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There were 120 Male Children born and 119 Females.

**Deaths.**—The total number of deaths occurring in the district has been 154, or 15·3 per 1000. Of this number 24 have arisen in the public institutions in the town amongst persons who did not belong to the Urban district of Ulverston. Then five deaths have occurred outside the district in persons who belonged to the district, so that the corrected deaths number 135, equal to a death-rate of 13·4 per 1000. I find that in the year 1908 there were 158 deaths, producing a death-rate of 15·7 per 1000.



	1909	1908
In the first quarter of the year there were	37	53
„ second „ „	28	39
„ third „ „	22	32
„ fourth „ „	48	34
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Totals	135	158
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There have been 69 deaths in Males and 66 in Females.

It will be seen from the above that just as there is a gratifying increase in the number of births registered, so there is an equally satisfactory decrease in the number of deaths.

Tabulated according to the different wards in which they arose I find the deaths to be as under;—

North Ward	...	...	...	28
South	„	...	...	22
East	„	...	...	21
West	„	...	...	39
Central	„	...	...	25
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			Total	135
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## CAUSES OF DEATH.

			1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Typhoid Fever	..	..	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	1
Diphtheria	..	..	—	2	—	—	1	8	5	13
Enteritis	..	..	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
Suicide	..	..	—	2	3	—	1	2	2	—
Septic Diseases	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis	..	..	4	10	16	6	6	10	6	14
Other Tubercular Diseases			5	5	5	3	8	6	—	4
Cancer	..	..	11	9	7	10	5	12	15	7
Bronchitis	..	..	28	22	13	14	16	34	25	30
Pneumonia	..	..	5	6	6	8	9	6	8	5
Pleurisy	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1	5	4
Alcoholism	..	..	2	3	3	3	3	4	—	—
Premature Birth	..	..	3	5	4	4	5	10	4	5
Heart Diseases	..	..	13	13	9	10	8	9	11	7
Scarlet Fever	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
Measels	..	..	—	2	6	—	1	—	2	—
Influenza	..	..	5	2	6	5	5	4	5	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	10
Diarrhoea	..	..	1	9	1	4	5	5	6	1
Child Birth	..	..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	..	..	2	4	4	9	5	3	3	9
Erysipelas	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Venereal Diseases	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	..	..	53	60	60	58	63	73	76	39
Totals			135	158	150	146	145	189	177	203

**Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.**—Under this heading I include Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Phthisis, but, as in former years, I shall take Phthisis (or Consumption of the Lungs) under a separate heading. I find that during the year there have been 28 deaths from Bronchitis and five from Pneumonia, making a total of 33. From the same diseases, in the year 1908, there were 29 deaths. The death-rate from respiratory diseases is equal to 24·4 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

**Phthisis.**—From Phthisis alone there have been four deaths, as compared with 10 in the year 1908, which is equal to a death-rate of 2·9 per cent. of the deaths from other causes.

**Infantile and Senile Deaths.**—In infants under one year of age, I find that there have been 23 deaths, the death-rate at this age period being equal to 96·2 per 1000 births. In the year 1908 there were 23 infantile deaths, exactly the same as this year, equal to an infantile death-rate of 105·0 per 1000 births.

In persons over 65 years of age there have been 54 deaths compared with 48 in the previous year.

**Zymotic Deaths.**—The diseases included under this heading have been responsible for only three deaths, which is most satisfactory, and the lowest number recorded, at any rate, since the year 1900. The Zymotic death-rate is thus equal to ·29 per 1000. In the previous year there were 14 deaths from diseases of this class, equal to 1·38 per 1000.

I append hereto a table giving a list of the deaths from Zymotic diseases.

	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	Totals
Measels .. ..	—	2	6	—	1	—	2	—	—	6	17
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	10	—	3	18
Typhoid Fever ..	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	2	3	11
Diarrhœa .. ..	1	9	1	11	5	5	6	1	5	1	45
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	—	9
Diphtheria .. ..	—	2	—	—	1	8	5	13	2	—	31
Totals	3	14	11	13	9	14	15	26	13	13	131



## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	Typhoid Fever.	Diphth- eria.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Small- Pox.	TOTAL.
1897	5	5	10	—	—	—	20
1898	5	3	7	—	—	—	15
1899	1	1	12	1	—	—	15
1900	6	1	5	—	1	—	13
1901	5	4	70	2	11	—	92
1902	3	111	101	—	16	—	231
1903	—	96	83	—	7	1	187
1904	3	72	22	2	16	—	115
1905	9	5	17	—	8	—	39
1906	2	2	4	1	1	—	10
1907	—	1	5	1	1	—	8
1908	—	4	5	—	1	—	10
1909	1	3	15	—	3	—	22
Totals	40	308	356	7	65	1	777

## TABULATED ACCORDING TO THE WARDS FROM WHICH THE CERTIFICATES WERE RECEIVED.

	Diphth- eria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Puerperal Fever.	TOTALS
North Ward..	1	4	—	1	—	6
South Ward..	—	3	—	—	—	3
East Ward ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Ward ..	2	5	1	—	—	8
Central Ward	—	3	—	2	—	5
Totals ..	3	15	1	3	—	22

**Scarlet Fever.**—There has never been anything approaching an epidemic prevalence of this disease, and the cases have usually been of the mildest description.

**Typhoid Fever.**—The only case of Typhoid Fever reported ended fatally. I am bound to say that there was a good deal of room for doubt as to the exact diagnosis, the symptoms being very much masked by complications.

In concluding my report, I must not omit to thank all my colleagues for their ready co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**G. H. PATTERSON,**

L.R.C.P. LOND., M.R.C.S., ENG., D.P.H., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 25th, 1910.